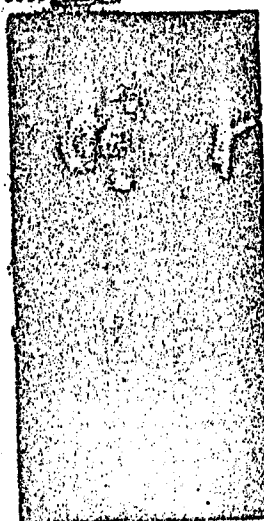


FOOTLIGHT PLACE

NEW YORK MIRROR, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1967



ROBERT TABER
Author of 'M-26'

Castro, Si! ... But the Truth ... Well?

CAPITAL REPORT: By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, August 12—A onetime CBS newsmen has set out to rebuild the tarnished image of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and the revolution he led.

He is Robert Taber, whose "M-26" is billed as the definitive work on the Cuban revolution. It is published by Lyle Stuart, a New York house known primarily for its tracts on "the art of successful love-making."

A big build-up has been given to the Taber book, with the New York Times carrying an expensive, sensational ad following its recent publication. It is labeled "the first accurate report of the incredible six-year struggle in which fifteen hundred rebels triumphed over a force of thirty-five thousand heavily-armed men."

Author Taber is described as a network reporter who covered the revolution firsthand: "He lived with the revolutionaries. He was treated as one of them. He suffered their ordeals and risked their perils. What he saw, what he heard and what he lived were recorded in his diary."

TO SECURITY OFFICIALS in Washington however, U. S. citizen Taber is something more. He possesses a police record dating back to 1932, when he went to jail for carrying a concealed weapon. In 1939, he was sentenced to thirty years for armed robbery, auto theft, and kidnapping.

Following his release from prison, Taber hooked up with CBS, only to lose his job there for left-wing sympathies. He formed the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," which quickly came under FBI attention thanks to the fact that Taber had worked with the group.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee opened an investigation into "Fair Play ..." calling Taber as a key witness. Taber appeared and denied that any Cuban money had been used to finance the nationwide group.

Dr. Charles A. Santos-Burch, a Cuban who himself had been connected with the group, discredited the story. Santos Burch swore that the Fair Play Committee was able to raise only a small fraction of the initial money and that the largest chunk—\$3,500—came from Raulito Ros, a member of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations and son of Cuba's Foreign Minister.

When the investigating subcommittee tried to get Taber back on the stand, he had skipped the country, turning up—surprise, surprise—in Cuba. He fled with \$19,000 in Fair Play funds.

TABER DENIES that he took it on the lam because the Justice Department was examining his testimony for possible perjury action. Nor did reports that he would be charged with failure to register as a foreign agent bother him, Taber told reporters.

He says only that he has no plans to return to the states. He is happy in his new job, pounding a typewriter for Castro's official Prensa Libre.

Minding the Fair Play store is Co chairman Richard Gibson, who testified before Congress several months ago, invoking the Fifth Amendment when asked about his group's operating procedure.

Gibson testified that he did not "personally wish to remain" in the United States. He is Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee for Africa, implicated in rioting at the United Nations after the death of Patrice Lumumba last winter.

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